

Michael Adams



Andreikin leads the charge

The European Club Cup was won impressively for the second year running by the Economist-SGSEU-1 team from Russia. Their star performer was the new World Junior Champion Dmitry Andreikin, who was victorious in a key game with Black against Alexei Shirov in the crunch match with the top-seeded SOCAR team from Azerbaijan.

Here is some of the other action:



Kamsky, G - Kovacevic, A
European Club Cup Plovdiv 2010

21... Qd7-c7

Black is under heavy pressure due to the preponderance of White's major pieces bearing down on open files. In contrast, Kamsky's king is quite happy in the middle as his opponent's pieces can't target it. Perhaps a better defence here was 21...Ra8-d8 22.Ng5-e4 Ke8-f8, but then the rook on h8 remains stuck out of play.

22.Qf3-f5 Ra8-d8

23.Rf1-f4

The queen and rook edge up the file creating lateral possibilities.

23... Qc7-d7

24.Rf4-d4 Qd7-c7

Although Black loses material after 24...Qd7xf5 25.Rd4xd8+ Ke8xd8 26.Ng5xf7+ Kd8-e8 27.Nf7-d6+ Ke8-d7 28.Nd6xf5 as the nimble knight evades capture, the resulting exchange in pieces is well worth it.

25.Rd4-e4

The third move along the fourth rank fatally overloads the defenders.

25... Rd8-d7

The rook can't be captured due to 25...Nf6xe4

26.Qf5xf7+

26.Re5xe7+ Rd7xe7

27.Re4-c4

Very crafty, now the rook has been drawn away from the back-rank this is decisive.

27... Qc7xc4

The alternative 27...Qc7-d8 28.Rc4-c8 is no better.

Now Gata mops up easily.

28.Bd3xc4 O-O

29.Bc4-d3 Rf8-e8

30.Ng5xh7 Re7xe3+

31.Ke2-f2 Nf6-e4+

32.Bd3xe4 Re8xe4

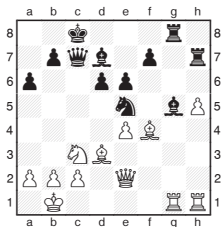
33.Nh7-g5 Re3-e2+

34.Kf2-g3 Re2-e3+

35.Ng5-f3 Re4-e6

36.h2-h4

The extra piece will soon have its say, so Black resigned.



Savchenko, B - Nedilko, V
European Club Cup Plovdiv 2010

23... Qc7-d8

Black should have defended the bishop with 23...f7-f6, but forgets about his queenside.

24.Bf4xe5 d6xe5

25.Bd3xa6

Decimating the queenside

pawn cover after which Black's monarch can't survive.

25... b7xa6

26.Qe2xa6+ Kc8-c7

After 26...Kc8-b8 27.Nc3-b5 Bd7xb5 28.Qa6xb5+ Kb8-c7 the White rook swings into action causing Black's position to collapse:

29.Rg1-g3 Qd8-b8

30.Qb5xe5+

27.Qa6-a7+ Kc7-c8

If 27...Kc7-d6 28.Qa7-a3+

Kd6-c7 29.Rg1-d1 Qd8-c8

30.Qa3-a7+ Kc7-d8

31.Rd1xd7+ Qc8xd7

32.Rh1-d1 either wins

Black's queen or allows

a devastating attack,

32...Bg5-d2 33.Qa7-b8+

Qd7-c8 34.Rd1xd2+

Kd8-e7 35.Qb8-d6+ Ke7-f6

(35...Ke7-e8 36.b2-b3

f7-f6 37.Nc3-b5 also

wins) 36.Nc3-d5+ Kf6-g7

37.Qd6xe5+ Kg7-f8

38.Qe5-d6+ Kf8-g7

39.Rd2-g2+ Kg7-h8

40.Qd6-e5+ Rh7-g7 41.h5-h6.

28.Rg1-d1

Black resigned as

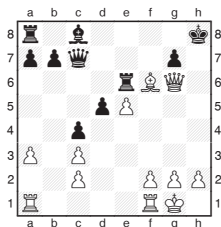
28...Qd8-c7 29.Qa7-a8+

Qc7-b8 30.Qa8xb8+

Kc8xb8 31.Rd1xd7 leaves

White with a decisive

material edge.



Vallejo Pons, F - Dizdarevic, E
European Club Cup Plovdiv 2010

Here Vallejo concluded the game neatly with

19.Ra1-e1 g7xf6

20.e5xf6

Now Black resigned as

20...Qc7-h7 21.Qg6-e8+

Re6xe8 22.Re1xe8+

Qh7-g8 23.f6-f7 wins the

house.